

## s e c t i o n e

## EXAMINATION OF SIMILAR PROJECTS

*Introduction*

A comparison and analysis of projects that have characteristics similar to those of the Ice Age Floods region, provide an opportunity to learn from the experiences of others. The objective is to analyze funding, management, interpretation and maintenance of these projects in order to determine the best approach for this study. The Ice Age Floods region is unique, but there are other projects with characteristics that are somewhat similar to the Floods region. These projects are described in greater detail in Appendix G of this report. Many of the projects fall under the NPS's Long Distance Trails Program, which consists of 14 National Scenic and Historic Trails totaling 26,000 miles. Each trail is managed through strong partnerships between nonprofit partners and federal and state agencies, while the NPS provides administration, technical assistance, and coordination to ensure appropriate protection and interpretation of the trails.

## s u m m a r y

Examining similar projects, many of which are part of NPS Long Distance Trails Program, provides the opportunity to understand better options for funding, management, interpretation, and maintenance. Fifteen projects from around the country were reviewed. Many of these projects are considered to be “non-traditional” in their concept, and the Floods region is excepted to take a similar approach.

Each project was analyzed by examining such variables as size, uses, and activities, management, cooperating partners, visits, features, interpretive elements, staffing, budget and funding, and jurisdiction.

The various projects fall under seven basic headings currently used by the National Park Service. Examples of these area/projects include:

- Historic Trails—Oregon NHT, Lewis & Clark NHT
- Scenic Trails—Ice Age NST, Natchez Trace NST, Potomac NST
- National Heritage Corridors—Illinois & Michigan Canal NHC, Blackstone River Valley NHC, Delaware and Lehigh NHC, Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley NHC



- National Scenic Areas\*—Columbia Gorge NSA (USFS)
- National Historic Parks\*—Klondike Gold Rush NHP, Nez Perce NHP
- National Reserves—Ice Age National Scientific Reserve

\*Although the National Scenic Areas and National Historic Parks appear to be unlike the Ice Age Floods proposal, they were included as similar projects because of the extensive use of partnerships, both governmental and non-governmental in a non-traditional setting.

See appendix G for a more detailed description of the similar projects that were examined.